

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed March 14, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 5, 7 – 17 and 19 – 32 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12, and have canceled claims 6 and 18 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 6 and 18 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 5, 6, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 28 – 32 are allowed.

As set forth above, Applicant has canceled claims 6 and 18. Further, with respect to claims 5, 17, 22, 23 and 25-27, Applicant has amended the base claims from which these claims depend in order to place these claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 and 12 are objected to for various informalities. In this regard, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12, and respectfully assert that the objections have been rendered moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-4, 7-16, 19, 20, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Schwarzbich* (U.S. Patent No. 6,585,447; hereinafter "*Schwarzbich*"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons discussed below.

In this regard, Applicant have amended claim 1 to recite:

1. A lock structure, comprising:
 - a first element having a guide hole and a first through hole located co-axially with the guide hole;
 - a second element disposed under the first element and having a second through hole aligned with the first through hole;
 - a guiding element rotatably and movably disposed in the guide hole, wherein the guiding element has a third through hole aligned with the first through hole; and
 - a fixing pin inserted through the third through hole, the guide hole, the first through hole and the second through hole and having a first retaining portion, wherein the first retaining portion is formed on a lower portion of the fixing pin and located under the second element, and ***cross sections of the first retaining portion, first through hole, second through hole, and third through hole are substantially rectangular.***

(*Emphasis Added*).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 – 5

and 7 - 11 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 12, that claim has been amended to recite:

12. A method for using a lock structure having a first element, a second element, a guiding element and a fixing pin, the first element having a guide hole and a first through hole located under the guide hole, the second element disposed under the first element and having a second through hole corresponding to the first through hole, the guiding element rotatably and movably disposed in the guide hole and having a third through hole corresponding to the first through hole, the fixing pin having a first retaining portion formed on the lower portion of the fixing pin, and ***cross sections of the first retaining portion, first through hole, second through hole, and third through hole being substantially rectangular***, comprising the steps of:

- (a) rotating the guiding element to advance the guiding element into the guide hole;
- (b) fitting the fixing pin into the third through hole, guide hole, first through hole and second through hole to locate the first retaining portion thereof under the second element;
- (c) rotating the fixing pin by an angle in a first direction to rotate the first retaining portion thereof by the angle; and
- (d) rotating the guiding element to move the guiding element in the guide hole until the first retaining portion of the fixing pin abuts the second element.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 12 unpatentable. Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 12 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 13 - 17 and 18 - 27 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 12, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daniel R. McClure', is written over a horizontal line.

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